

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-53 (canceled)

54. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
inputting means for inputting area-assignment information that defines latent-image area and background area and additional information;
determination means for determining a plurality of positions in the background area which is defined by the area-assignment information and a plurality of positions in the latent-image area which is defined by the area-assignment information;~~and~~
generating means for generating patterned image data by arranging first dots of a first dot size at the determined positions in the background area and arranging second dots of a second dot size that is a smaller dot size than the first dot size at the determined positions in the latent-image area, the first dots being easily reproducible when copied and the second dots not being easily reproducible when copied[[,]] ; and
information-attaching means for attaching the additional information to at least the latent image area such that ~~wherein,~~ it can be determined whether an image on a printed material is an original because the additional information can be extracted from the original image based on the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the latent-image area, and the additional information cannot be extracted from a copy.

55. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 54, wherein the additional information can be extracted based on the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and

the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis.

56. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the additional information can be extracted based on whether the result of multiplication of the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis is negative or positive.

57-62. (canceled)

63. (currently amended) An image processing method comprising:
inputting area-assignment information that defines latent-image area and background area and additional information;
determining a plurality of positions in the background area which is defined by the area-assignment information and a plurality of positions in the latent-image area which is defined by the area-assignment information;~~and~~

generating patterned image data by arranging first dots of a first dot size at the determined positions in the background area and arranging second dots of a second dot size that is a smaller dot size than the first dot size at the determined positions in the latent-image area, the first dots being easily reproducible when copied and the second dots not being easily reproducible when copied[[,]];:

attaching the additional information to at least the latent image area such that
~~wherein~~ it can be determined whether an image on a printed material is an original because the additional information can be extracted from the original image based on the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the latent-image area, and the additional information cannot be extracted from a copy.

64. (previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 63, wherein the additional information can be extracted based on the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis.

65. (previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 64, wherein the additional information can be extracted based on whether the result of multiplication of the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis is negative or positive.

66. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~capable of storing~~having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing an image processing method according to claim 63.

67. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 54, wherein the length between each of positions of the arranged second dots and each of the predetermined positions is less than half of the length between two of the predetermined positions.

68. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 67, wherein the positions of the arranged second dots correspond to the predetermined positions on a one-to-one basis.

69. (previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 63, wherein the length between each of positions of the arranged second dots and each of the predetermined positions is less than half of the length between two of the predetermined positions.

70. (previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 69, wherein the positions of the arranged second dots correspond to the predetermined positions on a one-to-one basis.